

Appln. No. 09/699,224
Amdt. dated September 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An isolated peptide mimic of a conserved gonococcal epitope not found on human blood group antigens, wherein said peptide mimic is capable of inducing in a mammal an immune response against said conserved gonococcal epitope and wherein said peptide mimic is less than 50 amino acids in length.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of the peptide mimic comprises the sequence ~~DE~~GLF (SEQ ID NO:8[D]).

Claim 3 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the immune response is T-cell dependent.

Claim 4 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of the peptide mimic comprises cysteine residues at each terminus.

Claim 5 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 4, wherein a cyclic peptide is formed through disulfide bridges between the cysteine residues at each terminus of said sequence.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The peptide mimic according to claim 5, wherein the peptide mimic ~~further comprises at least one tail for coupling~~ is coupled to a second agent.

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Claim 7 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 6, wherein the second agent is an adjuvant.

Claim 8 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the peptide mimic further comprises an adjuvant or a carrier protein.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the peptide mimic is part of a multiple-antigen peptide (MAP).

Claim 10 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said peptide mimic competes with gonococcal lipooligosaccharide (LOS) for binding to monoclonal antibody 2C7.

Claim 11: Cancelled.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the peptide mimic binds to monoclonal antibody 2C7.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the peptide mimic binds to a monoclonal antibody produced by immunizing a mammal with an anti-idiotypic monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof, produced by a hybridoma cell line having the specific immunological reactivity of HB 11311 as deposited with the ATCC.

Claim 14: Cancelled.

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Claim 15 (previously presented): A composition for immunizing against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising an immunoprophylactically effective amount of a peptide mimic according to any one of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 12 or 13.

Claim 16 (original): A composition for immunizing against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising an immunoprophylactically effective amount of a peptide mimic comprising the peptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.